

# Stormwater Facts

What it is ....

Why it is important ....

How to protect stormwater quality ....

## What it is ....

Stormwater is water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement due to rain or snowmelt (or also called stormwater runoff). Water may seep into the ground, flow in ditches or streams, or enter the storm drain system. The storm drains are what you see at street corners or at low points on the sides of streets. Storm drains lead to a discharge point such as open channels or directly into natural rivers or creeks within the community.

Natural creeks have a small amount of baseflow, which is caused by groundwater recharge and high water tables that are relatively clean. When it rains, the baseflow is supplemented by stormwater runoff from parking lots and city streets. Stormwater runoff tends to pick up garbage, debris, sediment, chemicals, automotive fluids and other pollutants; stormwater runoff is relatively dirty.

## Why it is important ....

Stormwater runoff is a major problem when it picks up garbage, debris, sediment, chemicals, automotive fluids, fertilizers, leaves and other pollutants from parking lots, yards, city streets, shopping malls, house roofs, etc. This type of pollution is called nonpoint source (NPS) pollution and is more of a problem than direct discharges from commercial industries and plants, which have NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permits as mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The result of unclean stormwater runoff discharges is the loss of fish and aquatic wildlife from the community's streams and creeks. The City must comply with the new State and Federal regulations related to stormwater runoff.



Storm water flows through storm drains into Iowa lakes, streams, and rivers.

## Storm Water Management

As we move forward, cities will endeavor to manage stormwater quality and runoff through use of awareness programs and detention facilities.

## STORM WATER REGULATIONS IN OUR CITY

To comply with these federal regulations, our city is required to implement a new storm water management program. The requirements include:

- Public Education and Outreach,
- Public Involvement,
- Illicit Discharge and Elimination,
- Construction Site Stormwater Runoff and Control,
- Post-construction Stormwater Management,
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping,



The impact of soil erosion and sedimentation is of great concern. Improper management of these sites can cause pollution to our resources.

## How to Protect Stormwater Quality....

The best way to protect stormwater runoff quality is to avoid polluting in the first place. Conserve and recycle resources such as newspapers, plastic containers, glass jars, and metal cans.

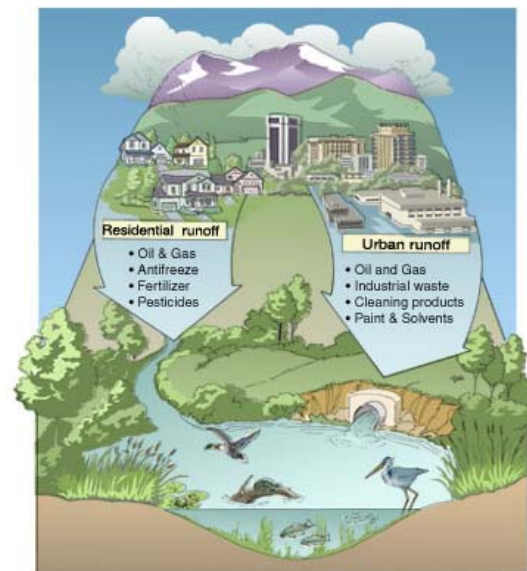
Don't dump hazardous substances such as used oil, household chemicals, yard fertilizer, or other wastes onto pavement or into storm drains.

Practice picking up litter, and disposing of leaves and yard waste properly.

Prevent excess runoff of pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides by using them properly and efficiently.

Participate in local garbage and debris pickup days, and recycle household hazardous waste materials to prevent storm drain contamination.

Encourage active citizen participation in stormwater protection and public group education on stormwater quality.



This Brochure has been distributed to you as a cooperative effort between the City of Clive, City of Urbandale, City of Waukee and the City of West Des Moines in an effort to increase your knowledge of our storm water management programs and efforts.

### Contact Information:

City of Urbandale

To report a Stormwater Concern (515) 278-3950

### Contact Information:

City of Clive

To report a Stormwater Concern (515) 223-6231

### Contact Information:

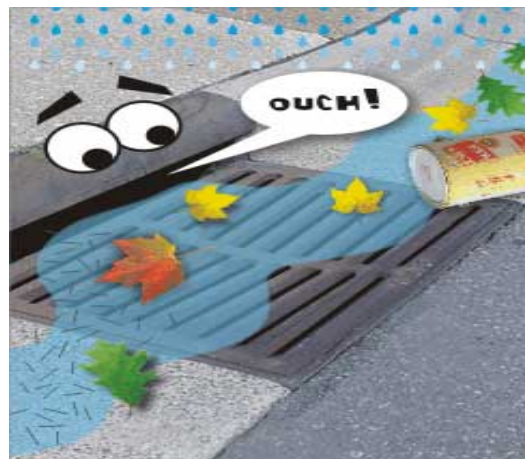
City of Waukee

To report a Stormwater Concern (515) 249-1212

### Contact Information:

City of West Des Moines

To report a Stormwater Concern (515) 222-3480



## "Together" We Are Managing Storm Water



Storm water can pose a risk to our water resources. Pollutants in storm water can impact lakes, streams and rivers. We are working together on new programs to control storm water pollution in our communities.